

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06051 232039Z

63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 DRC-01 /157 W

----- 057595

R 231904Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8967

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN WUTU

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 6051

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT BE

SUBJECT: INTERNAL POLITICS - CABINET PRUNED, PROGRAM DISCUSSED

REF: BRUSSELS 0417; 5971 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON LAID BEFORE PARLIAMENT OC 23  
RESULTS OF WEEK'S INTENSIVE EFFORT TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS  
WITHIN HIS THREE-PARTY GOVERNMENT. THE CABINET WAS REDUCED  
FROM 36 TO 28 MEMBERS. DISCUSSION OF PROGRAMS, WHICH TOUCHED  
UPON REGIONALIZATION, THE FLEMISH CULTURAL COUNCIL'S  
LANGUAGE DECREE OF SEPTEMBER 16, THE BUDGET, EDUCATION, AND  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06051 232039Z

SOCIAL COSTS, THE IBRAMCO AND RTT AFFAIRS, ABORTION REFORM AND,

IN A VERY GENERAL WAY, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, CONTAINED NO SURPRISES. DEBATE WILL BEGIN OCTOBER 24 WITH VOTE OF CONFIDENCE PROBABLY EARLY FRIDAY MORNING.

2. LEBURTON SAID 36 MEMBER CABINET - ALL THAT WAS POSSIBLE IN JANUARY - WAS UNWORKABLE THUS, THE REDUCTION. AS ANNOUNCED BY PALACE, COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ANSEEELE RESIGNED FOR "REASONS OF HEALTH" AND WAS REPLACED BY FELLOW SOCIALIST, SENATOR ELIE VAN BOGAERT. (SOCIAL CHRISTIANS HAD BEEN DEMANDING RESIGNATION OF ANSEEELE, WHOM THEY CLAIMED WAS ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR RTT CONTRACT SCANDALS.) MINISTER FOR MIDDLE CLASSES HANNOTTE, A LIBERAL, ALSO RESIGNED FOR REASONS OF HEALTH BUT WAS NOT REPLACED. DEPARTING STATE SECRETARIES WERE PETRY (COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT), URBAIN (WALLOON HOUSING AND PLANNING), AND FAYAT (HARBOR POLICY), ALL SOCIALIST; VERLACKT-GAVAERT (FAMILY), VAN DE WIELE (FLEMISH HOUSING AND PLANNING), AND SCHYNS (TOURISM AND GERMAN-SPEAKING CANTONS), ALL SOCIAL CHRISTIANS; AND KEMPINAIRE (FOREIGN TRADE), A LIBERAL. WHICH MINISTERS WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEPARTING CABINET MEMBERS WAS NOT ANNOUNCED. END UNCLASSIFIED

3. COMMENT. BEGIN LOU. CABINET RESHUFFLE REPRESENTS ATTEMPT TO GET MORE WORKABLE CABINET, IN WHICH RESPECT DEPARTURE OF PETRY AND KEMPINAIRE REMOVES TWO THORNS FROM SIDE OF FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE. DISPOSITION OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEPARTING CABINET MEMBERS IS STILL IN DISPUTE, HOWEVER, AND POSSIBLE ASSUMPTION BY CUDELL (BRUSSELS REGIONAL AFFAIRS) AND DECLERCQ (VICE PRIME MINISTER AND FINANCE) OF FUNCTIONS OF PETRY AND KEMPINAIRE, RESPECTIVELY, COULD LEAVE FOREIGN MINISTER'S SITUATION LITTLE IMPROVED. (DEFRAIGNE, STATE SECRETARY FOR WALLOON REGIONAL ECONOMY, HAS ALSO INTRUDED ON FONMIN'S TERRITORY BUT WAS, POLITICALLY, UNTOUCHABLE.) DISPOSITION WILL ENTAIL EFFORT TO GIVE MINISTERS CUDELL AND GRAFE (WALLOON REGIONAL AFFAIRS) SOMETHING TO DO (THEIR COUNTERPART FOR FLANDERS, CHABERT, ALSO HEADS MINISTRY FOR FLEMISH CULTURE, A GOING CONCERN); THUS ASSIGNMENT OF COMPETENCIES, WHEN MADE, MAY SEEM SOMEWHAT UNTIDY.

4. PROGRAM PRONOUNCEMENT IS BEST CHARACTERIZED AS HOLDING ACTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 06051 232039Z

RATHER THAN RESOLUTION OF FUNDAMENTAL SUBSTANTIVE DIVISIONS AMONG GOVERNMENT PARTIES ON BUDGETARY, ECONOMIC, AND, ESPECIALLY, REGIONAL/LINGUISTIC MATTERS. BOTH IT AND CABINET RESHUFFLE ARE EXPECTED TO RECEIVE PARLIAMENTARY OKAY. STRAUSSZ-HUPE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973BRUSSE06051  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BRUSSELS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731016/aaaaalqo.tel  
**Line Count:** 112  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 BRUSSELS 0417, 5971 (NOTAL)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 JUL 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26-Jul-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <21-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INTERNAL POLITICS - CABINET PRUNED, PROGRAM DISCUSSED  
**TAGS:** PINT, BE  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC BONN COPENHAGEN DUBLIN LONDON LUXEMBOURG PARIS ROME  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005